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Canadian Says Pentagon Study Omits '66 Peace Offer by Hanoi

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WASHINGTON, July 4—Chester A. Ronning, a retired Canadian diplomat, said today that accounts he had read of the secret Pentagon study of the Vietnam war did not describe a visit he had made to Hanoi in March, 1966, in which the North Vietnamese gave him what he considered to be a major new peace offer.

Mr. Ronning, who is mentioned in the Pentagon study in terms of a second visit to Hanoi in June, 1966, said that the North Vietnamese Premier, Pham Van Dong, told him in March that Hanoi was willing to drop two major demands. These were its long-standing insistence on American recognition of the National Liberation Front, the guerrillas' political organization, and prior withdrawal of all American troops before negotiations could begin.

In a telephone interview from his home in Camrose, Alberta, Mr. Ronning said that on his return from both visits to Hanoi he had met with William P. Bundy, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs.

The Canadian said he took issue with Mr. Bundy's report of their conversation following his June visit. As related in the Pentagon study, Mr. Bundy reported that Mr. Ronning had found no opening or flexibility in the North Vietnamese position.

Mr. Ronning said that, in fact, he was upset "because the United States had failed to seize an opportunity to end the war in Vietnam on honoreble terms for the United States by accepting the tremendous concessions made by North Vietnam."